

OUR TOWN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

SEPTEMBER 2012



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Quail



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Smart Phones
Save Lives



ENERGY USAGE BY THE NUMBERS

\$1,172

Average annual energy
bill across all of PG&E

\$5,225

Average annual energy bill
in LAH
(measured in the High Energy
Homes program)

242 watts

Average home idle load
across 800 homes
(measured by High Energy Audits)

668 watts

Average home idle
load in LAH

\$600

The annual cost of
energy for having a hot
water recirculation pump

\$712

Average annual savings
for LAH participants
in HEH Program



Smarter Use of Energy

It's difficult to walk by a faucet left running and not turn it off. It just doesn't seem right to let a valuable resource like water go to waste. Long-time residents of California are familiar with periods of water rationing so conserving water is a habit. Would you be surprised to learn that another valuable resource is leaking out of your home right now, costing you money? The good news is there are easy ways to stop the waste. [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.]

"We registered for the High Energy Audit program last year. For the past 10 months, we received monthly audit reports that provide comparative information about our home's use of energy. We are now able to easily analyze our electricity and gas use and reduce our energy use to save money each month."

DUFFY PRICE, RESIDENT

Where's Your Energy Going?

Nearly all of our homes are wasting energy right now, but we can't see the leak so we can't turn it off. The leak isn't the energy being used to heat or light your home, but electricity wasted by electronics and some appliances. You can think of DVD players, game consoles, fax machines, desktop computers, stereo systems, TVs, and all sorts of other electronics as leaky faucets for electricity. Nearly every electronic device in your home — and there are a lot of them these days — is letting electricity go to waste because many of them continue to use electricity even after they have been turned off and are in stand-by mode.

Electronics aren't the only way a home leaks energy, but it is one way that surprises most people. The difficulty is finding out where the energy is being wasted and learning how to stop it.

Analyzing Energy Use

Starting in April 2011, Los Altos Hills and four other local communities offered residents access to a web-based service to analyze home energy use. During the year the program was offered, 176 families took advantage of it to reduce their energy bills without spending a lot of money or changing their lifestyle. Fifty-five Los Altos Hills families used the service to cut their

energy bills by an average of \$740 per year. On June 21, the Town Council approved funding an extension to the program so 50 more Los Altos Hills households can sign up.

How Does it Work?

The High Energy Homes (HEH) program takes advantage of the data collected from your home by PG&E SmartMeters. To participate, follow the link under the "Sustainability" tab of the town's website. Residents will have to provide access to their PG&E login information so the software can automatically access and analyze each home's energy use. After registering, a resident will have a personal, secure account where they can build their home energy profile by answering a handful of questions. A home energy profile (see example at left) shows how energy is used in different categories. In the example, the energy used for heating and cooling is pretty low when compared to other uses — only about a quarter of the yearly total. This is common for larger, newer homes in Los Altos Hills. The energy consumed as the "base load" is 42% — the biggest single category for this home. The base load is all of those electronics in standby mode. The good news is that it's usually pretty easy and inexpensive to reduce base loads. The solution involves unplugging old VCRs, putting entertainment systems on smart strips, and putting hot water recirculation pumps on timers, to name just a few examples.

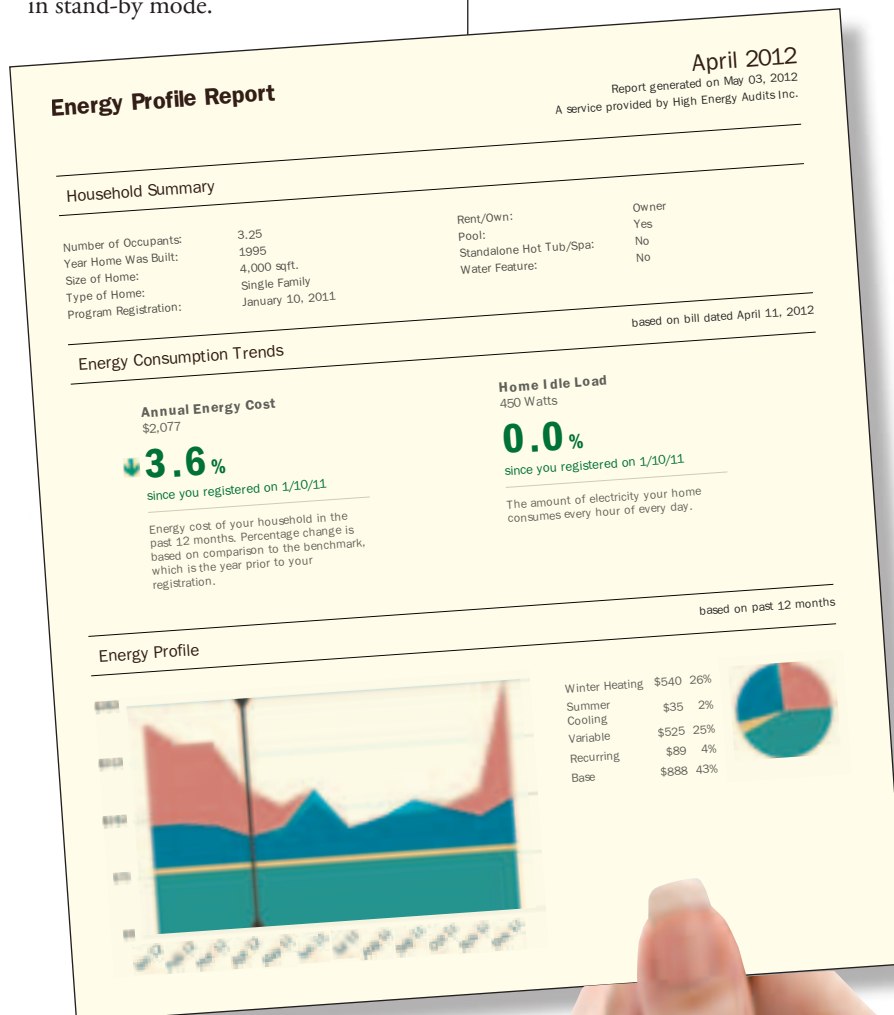
Sign Up Today

Residents are encouraged to sign up for the High Energy Homes program and start conserving energy. The program is offered by the town and is free for the first 50 residents to sign up.

TO LEARN MORE:



Visit www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/sustainability/high-energy-homes.



FROM THE CITY MANAGER

The City Council approved the town's 2012/13 capital improvement program, which authorizes \$390,000 for street repairs. Below is a table showing the streets that are scheduled for pavement rehabilitation work this summer/fall season.

2012 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION PROJECT

Street	From	To	Type of Work
Alicante Lane	Manuella Road	End	Remove and replace 2.5" AC
Berry Hill Court	Berry Hill Lane	End	Digouts and 2" overlay
Berry Hill Lane	Arastradero Road	End	Digouts and 2" overlay
Catherine Court	Donelson Place	End	Digouts
Matadero Creek Court	Matadero Creek Lane	End	Digouts and 2" overlay
Matadero Creek Lane	Page Mill Road	End	Digouts and 2" overlay
Murietta Lane	Moody Road	End	Digouts and 2" overlay
Old Page Mill Road	2106 Old Page Mill Road	Town limit	Remove and replace 4" AC
Tepa Way	Summit Wood Road	End	Remove and replace 2.5" AC
Wild Plum Lane	Miranda Road	End	Digouts and 2" overlay

In addition, \$500,000 has been budgeted for the Elena Road Slope Stability Project. According to the town's consulting geologist, a portion of Elena Road was originally constructed on fill material that is not entirely stable. The area of instability is located southeast of Foothill Lane (map, right). Work involves the installation of 60 to 110 drilled piers from 22 to 29 feet deep.

Carl Cahill, City Manager



FROM THE PLANNING DIRECTOR

The Los Altos Hills Planning and Building Department is responsible for enforcing the town's municipal codes on public and private property to maintain a safe and desirable community. The town's code enforcement process is complaint driven. In most cases, an investigation begins as a response to a complaint filed with the town.

What are the most common types of violations?

Most common types of code complaints include building violations, trash cans, fences and setbacks, signs, noise, weed abatement, outdoor lighting, inoperable vehicles, and graffiti.

What is the procedure for following up on possible code violations?

For all types of code complaints, the first step in the follow-up procedure is a site visit of the possible violation by a staff member to ascertain if a code violation exists. Once a violation is confirmed, town staff will contact the property owner and request that the violation be corrected. The town will then work with the property owner to ensure that the violation is corrected in a timely manner to bring the property into compliance. The primary goal is to resolve the code violation through voluntary compliance. Cases that involve immediate risks to the public's health and safety take priority and will be enforced as rapidly as possible.

How do I report a violation?

A complaint about a possible code violation can be made by letter, telephone, email, or in person to the town's Planning and Building Department. Please provide specific information including the location and a description of the alleged violation. All complaints are confidential. For weed abatement complaints (any tall dry grass or dead vegetation which may pose a fire hazard), contact the Santa Clara County Fire Department at 408-283-3145. For after hours noise complaints (after 5:00 pm and before 8:00 am), contact the Sheriff's Department at 408-299-3233.

Debbie Pedro, Planning Director

Three Volunteers Appointed to Planning Commission

On June 21, the Los Altos Hills Town Council appointed three town residents to the Planning Commission from seven who volunteered for the position. Jim Abraham, Jitze Couperus, and Susan Mandle join existing commission members John Harpootlian and Richard Partridge. The Planning Commission frequently reviews difficult or large residential applications, although almost any land use permit that requires a variance or receives significant neighborhood opposition will come before the Planning Commission. Since the commissioners are fellow residents, they empathize with the views of the applicant and neighbors. They also review subdivisions, modifications to the ordinances or General Plan, and provide recommendations to the council. Planning commissioners serve a term of four years.

Jim Abraham

Abraham and his family have lived in the town for 33 years. He retired nine years ago from United Airlines as a 747 Captain, having spent 37 years flying for PanAm and United. Jim served on the Planning Commission for four years, as well the Emergency Communications Committee and a number of ad hoc committees. He also is a member of the Los Altos Hills Emergency Group. Abraham is also CERT trained.

As a planning commissioner, Abraham's focus is to respect the rights of all property owners. "All residents should be treated equally and in conformance with our General Plan and our ordinances that are derived from the General Plan," said Abraham. "Any resident that wants to develop their property should be treated with the same respect that their neighbors had when they did their development."

Jitze Couperus

Couperus was born in Kenya and raised in Uganda. After school he trained as a reconnaissance pilot with the air wing of The Kings African Rifles and finished his two years conscription as a policeman in Western Uganda. Subsequently he joined a British computer manufacturer and completed apprenticeship at the Post Office training establishment in Bletchley Park in England.

Couperus met his wife, Nancy, a native Californian who was teaching at the Hague. He was recruited by a supercomputer manufacturer to join a software R&D team in Palo Alto, and immigrated to California in 1969, retiring from that company in 2002.

Couperus has been active in town since 1974. He was involved in the effort to preserve Westwind Barn as a community asset; the successful "Open Space Initiative" in 2002; and the multi-year Adobe Creek restoration effort that culminated in 2009. Becoming a planning commissioner seemed a logical next step for him: "I'd like to try to reduce the number of planning conflicts that are escalated to city council level," he said. "This involves diplomacy and negotiation between applicant and neighbors, all within the framework of the town's ordinances, and you can't make everybody happy all the time – but to the extent I can – that's what gives me gratification."

Susan Mandle

Mandle made the move north from Southern California to attend college. Graduating with a degree in product design, she took a job locally as an R&D engineer and has made the Bay Area her home ever since. She and her husband, Tom, moved to Los Altos Hills in 1985; their four children attended Los Altos public schools. During those years, Susan and Tom were introduced to the wider community through school activities and volunteer opportunities. After earning an MBA, Mandle now works as a consultant supporting the fundraising efforts of social entrepreneurs as they connect with impact investors and venture philanthropists.

Mandle's involvement in the Adobe Creek restoration was a first lesson in civic engagement that exemplified what individuals can accomplish when they commit to working together toward a common goal. She looks forward to a similarly rewarding experience on the Planning Commission. "I expect that the exchange of ideas and points of view among everyone involved in planning decisions — the applicants, their neighbors, the town staff, committee representatives, the commissioners, and anyone else interested in an outcome — will lead to some creative solutions," she said. "It's a privilege to be a participant in that process."



From top to bottom:
Jim Abraham, Jitze
Couperus, and Susan
Mandle

Caring for the Town Pathway System

The Town pathway system is a very unique and appreciated aspect of community life. Occasionally, however, there are conflicts on how best to use and protect the pathway system. For example, parking on pathways is illegal, yet many cars park on them because some streets in town have very little parking space available. In this situation, residents might request "no parking" signs; however, many residents believe signs can

clutter and compromise beautiful, rural views.

The Pathways Committee tries to achieve a balance in these situations and discusses each request on a path-by-path basis. Residents can help maintain the pathway system by not parking on the pathways and reminding visitors and gardeners that it is illegal to park on the pathways. When there is a particular problem, residents should leave notes or discuss the issue with their

neighbors before requesting signage. If there is a recurring problem, such as parking along Moody Road near Hidden Villa, or in neighborhoods around Foothill College, then both signage and more code enforcement may be necessary.

Residents should also note that due to safety concerns, motorbikes are not allowed on pathways and dogs must be on leash at all times.

Living with Streams



Healthy, natural creeks and streams have a multitude of benefits: they improve water quality, limit bank erosion, moderate downstream flooding, recharge groundwater, and provide habitat and movement corridors for wildlife. The natural beauty of a well-cared-for stream enhances property values.

Los Altos Hills protects creeks and riparian corridors by requiring a minimum 25-foot setback from the top of the creek bank. Barring certain very specific exceptions, no structures are allowed within this setback and native riparian vegetation must be left undisturbed. Creeks and riparian areas can be easily damaged by careless actions or poor management activities. Landowners can help preserve and enhance

streams on their property in the following ways:

- Preserve the natural features of the creek, including banks and vegetation. Tilling, compacting, and changing the soil grade or drainage patterns should be avoided. Never harden creek banks with rocks or other materials. These kinds of changes increase flow and erosion both upstream and downstream. Consult with the agencies that have jurisdiction over creeks for advice and permission for any alterations you are considering.
- Leave existing native streamside vegetation intact. Roots of riparian vegetation are essential to hold stream bank soils in place and prevent erosion. Vegetated creek banks are up to 20,000 times more resistant to erosion than bare banks. Mowing, stripping, or clearing vegetation leads to erosion and loss of ability to filter and trap sediment and pollutants.
- Keep fencing out of riparian setbacks. If fences are desirable to demarcate property boundaries adjacent to open space easements, use wildlife-friendly fencing (i.e. split rail).
- Never run drainage pipes or drain swimming pool water into a creek or stream. Do not throw grass clippings, tree prunings, solid waste, or any other debris into the creek. These can kill wildlife and vegetation and interfere with natural flows.
- Reduce invasive plants through judicious removal and replacement with natives. Invasive, non-native species in riparian corridors crowd out native vegetation and reduce hydrologic function and wildlife value.
- Plant native plants, trees, and shrubs, which provide habitat for bugs and birds, stabilize creek banks, and slow stream velocity.



For additional information contact the LAH Open Space Committee and/or see Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams at: <http://www.valleywater.org/Programs/WaterResourcesProtectionCollaborative.aspx>



Los Altos Hills Hoedown at Westwind Community Barn

This year's Hoedown, held at Westwind Community Barn on Saturday, September 8, from 3:00 to 8:00 pm, will feature live blue grass music by Sidesaddle & Co., old-fashioned arts & crafts, Farmers Market, BBQ and entertainment for the entire family. There is no fee for the event; food and beverage will be available for purchase. The Community Farmers Market provides an opportunity for residents to set up a table to sell their garden grown fruits and vegetables. Hand-pressed apple cider is available with apples from DeMartini and press from Hidden Villa. The event will also highlight textile demonstrations, quilting, knitting, crocheting, spinning, weaving by Custom Handweavers, soap making, leather tooling by Silicon Valley Leathercraft Guild, puppet making, and family-oriented games and prizes. At 4:30 pm, come view our equestrian exhibitions in the upper arena, featuring the 4-H mini horses, riding demonstrations from Parks and Recreation participants in the Year 'Round Riding Program, as well as the Pacific Ridge Pony Club. This year, California Barbecue will be selling BBQ meals as well as a la carte items onsite. The 4-H, Youth Commission, and Pony Club will host a bake sale. Several local wines will be poured. If you would like to participate in our Farmers Market, host a craft table, game, help teach knitting, crocheting or embroidery, pour wine or donate to the event, please contact Sarah Gualtieri 650-947-2518 or sgualtieri@losaltoshills.ca.gov.



Age Well — Drive Smart

The goal of this program, to be held on Wednesday, October 17, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Hillview Community Center (Room 2), is to reduce motor vehicle collision and pedestrian deaths and injuries experienced by older Californians, and to increase seniors' alternate transportation options when driving is no longer possible. The program is a cooperative effort between the California Highway Patrol and the Department of Motor Vehicles for the older driver community in Santa Clara County. The seminar is presented by a group of senior volunteers from the San Jose area of the California Highway Patrol and hosted by the joint Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Senior Commission. The Hillview Community Center is located at 97 Hillview Avenue in Los Altos. Please make an appointment by contacting the Los Altos Senior Center at 650-947-2797.

THE QUIRKY QUAIL

Los Altos Hills is on the urban edge, nestled into the base of the Santa Cruz Mountains. An idyllic location for its human denizens and a land of opportunity for its non-human ones – insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, and plants.

The Habitat page of *Our Town* will provide a snapshot of the many plant and animal species we share the hills with, including general biology and useful tips on how to co-exist with and ultimately appreciate this wildlife.

Habitat

A habitat is the combination of vegetation types and water resources. Los Altos Hills has a diversity of habitats: mixed evergreen forest, oak woodland, chaparral, grassland, riparian (creeks), lake or pond, and landscaping. Our habitats are more diverse than Mountain View, Los Altos, and much of Palo Alto, mostly because of our location and large lot size.

The habitats in Los Altos Hills are used by large mammals, small mammals, raptors (hawks, vultures, and owls), ground birds like quail, songbirds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and spiders.

The diversity in habitat types affects the diversity in wildlife species, and the number of species generally increases when many different habitat types are present. Because we are adjacent to big areas of open space that mammals with large home-range requirements can use, we share our home with

mountain lion, deer, bobcat, and fox. They have no idea what a city or property boundary is.

The California Quail

One of the most common species in Los Altos Hills is the California quail (*Callipepla californica*). Residents who walk and bike the trails have most likely encountered the California quail and enjoyed its beauty and its antics.

The California quail is a ground-dwelling bird

that flies only short distances. It loves to dig in leaf litter and eat insects, but it prefers the leaves, fruit, and seeds of native plants. Quail need shrubs that reach



A clutch of 12-16 California quail eggs are incubated by the female for 18-23 days. Both sexes tend the chicks, which are precocial and can fly after 10 days.

HABITAT

all the way to the ground for cover and nesting sites, like coyote brush and saltbush. They tend to stay within 100 feet of good cover while foraging over an area of about 25 acres. The nests are a small depres-

FUN FACTS

The male's "topknot" feather is a little fancier than the female's.

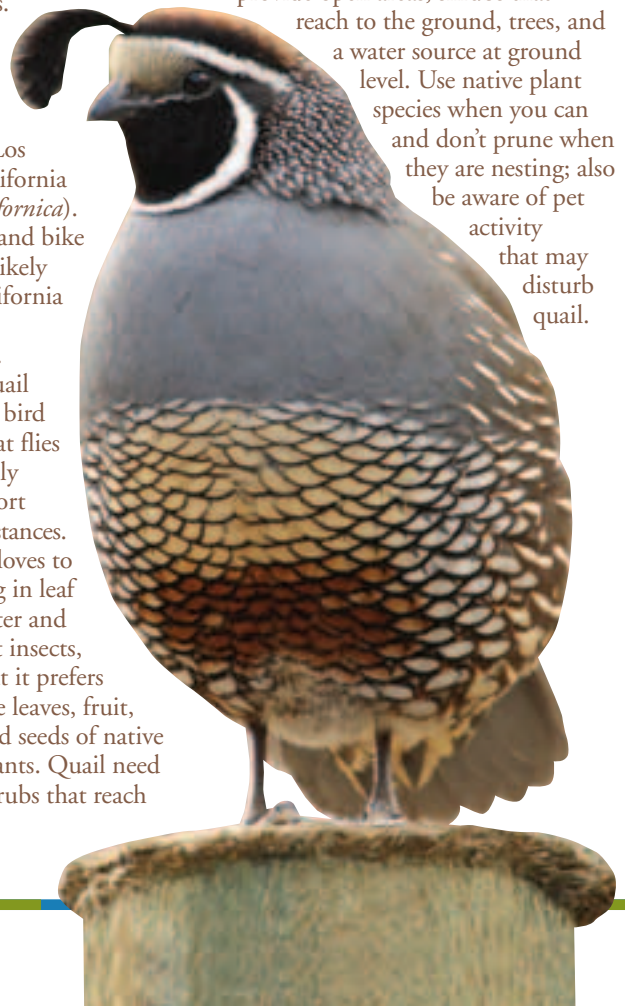
They have 14 different calls; listen for the one that sounds like "Chi-ca-go".

Chicks eat spiders, a rich source of protein.

They are often monogamous, having one mate for life.

sion in the ground, lined with plants, hidden in shrubs, and are used from April to August (peaking in May and June). Some quail prefer to roost higher up in dense trees.

To have quail in your yard, provide open areas, shrubs that reach to the ground, trees, and a water source at ground level. Use native plant species when you can and don't prune when they are nesting; also be aware of pet activity that may disturb quail.



SMART PHONES CAN SAVE LIVES

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) has announced that an application for Android phones has been developed for our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members that will enable them to quickly gather data in an emergency to report damage, injuries, and other valuable disaster information.

With the new app, Los Altos Hills CERT members will be assessing their neighborhood and entering data for each residence in their zone. After a disaster, the app (shown below) would be used to allow each CERT member to quickly enter data, such as what type of damage is observed at the home; if the road is accessible; if there is a hazardous condition at the home; and if any residents have been injured. The app has additional screens that include more detailed information that can be vital when assessing neighborhoods after a major earthquake. The app also allows the CERT member to take a picture, video, or an audio report. This will enable the emergency management team to make real-time assessment of injury to people, damage to homes, and damage to specific areas of the LAHCFD in the event of a disaster.

Residents must be a LAHCFD CERT member to participate in this phone app program. Currently there are 187 CERT members in Los Altos Hills. All residents are encouraged to join the CERT program. To register or learn more, please contact Emergency Services Coordinator Mike Sanders by phone 650-922-1055, or email at mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org, or visit www.lahcfd.org.



DONATE YOUR SMART PHONE

The LAHCFD CERT program is looking for Android phone donations. All donated phones will have all stored information cleared and the emergency app downloaded into the phone. The phones will be used for training purposes and in the event of an emergency to help identify and locate damage and injuries, so that our fire fighters can be more effective.

If you are interested in donating an old phone, please contact Emergency Services Coordinator Mike Sanders: 650-922-1055, mike.sanders@cnt.sccgov.org, or visit www.lahcfd.org.

Education Committe Keeps Eye on Public Education



The Education Committee recently published its annual enrollment report. Spread between three school districts and the Bullis Charter School, it is no trivial matter to determine where Los Altos Hills students are attending public school. For that reason, one of the charges of the Education Committee is to secure enrollment data from the various superintendents, ensuring that the addresses

reported are within the boundaries of Los Altos Hills. Beyond placing town students at particular schools, the report shows how much in the way of real estate and parcel tax revenues are provided to the districts for every Los Altos Hills student — from a very substantial \$21,700 to Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD), to a whopping \$30,400 per student in the case of Mountain View Los Altos School District (MVLA). The transfer agreement that allows PAUSD students to attend Gardner Bullis (near Town Hall and within LASD) on a multi-year basis now supports 29 PAUSD Los Altos Hills students. Gardner Bullis supports 149 K-6 Town students, and PAUSD's Nixon supports 91 K-5 town students (data for BCS was not available). Complete data can be found on the town's website at www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/city-government/standing-committees/education/pec-presentations and the letter sent to the superintendents.

Gunn Miranda entrance is back on track for fall 2013

Expansion plans at Gunn High School will be putting additional traffic into the Arastradero corridor. With other groups, the Education Committee was successful in using the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to turn the Miranda "back door" into a future, full-fledged entrance, including drop-off and turnaround. The current target is to provide at least 400 linear-feet of on-campus curb space to disembark and pick-up students. Recently, the Miranda entrance was split from the main entrance/parking lot effort to bring it back on schedule for availability at the beginning of the 2013/14 school year. There are still issues like protecting a heritage oak, completion of a two-story teaching building, and other uncertainties. However, the Education Committee continues to keep an eye on a process that involves several public entities (ie, PAPD, SCC Sheriff, VTA, CalTrans, and the City of Palo Alto).

Interested in Leadership?

Taking the Los Altos Leadership Education (LEAD) course can be a life-changing experience by helping you to step up to the challenge of community building. Alumni have called it "Los Altos 101" because the program introduces people to community programs and leaders through a series of interactive classes.

The Los Altos Community Foundation (LACF) sponsors the LEAD program. Approximately 350 people have completed the course and many have gone on to become elected city officials, non-profit board members, and community volunteers.

What makes LEAD a life-changing experience? The program facilitates interactive dialogue between community leaders and the LEAD participants in a setting that fosters camaraderie; allows time for everyone to be involved and ask questions; and provides an intimate forum where candid discussions about objectives and challenges take place.

Healthcare CEOs, nonprofit executive directors, school superintendents and board of trustee members, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills elected officials, and city management all participate. Each LEAD session has a focused agenda. Topics include local government, commerce, education, the Los Altos Library and History Museum, social services, health-care, the arts, and community services organizations.

If you are new to the Los Altos area, recently retired, looking to learn community-building skills, or get better connected with your community, LEAD is the perfect program for you. A half-day workshop launches the 2013 program in January. All remaining classes will be twice a month on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 9 January through May. There is a one-time fee of \$125. Workshop and class dates will be announced in November. For additional details, contact Monica Davis at 650-949-5908 or e-mail mdavis@losaltoscf.org.





FIELD DAY

at Gardner Bullis School

In June, Los Altos Hills' Gardner Bullis School held its annual Field Day exercises. Beginning on a perfect note, fifth grader Leah Cohen led the student body in singing "The Star Spangled Banner." Divided into eight K-6 teams, the student body competed from nine o'clock until noon in seven different events such as long jump, potato sack race, and relay race. Each team wore a different color which made for a spectacular rainbow set against the green field.

The objective of Field Day was to demonstrate both sportsmanship and camaraderie while competing in a variety

of athletic exercises. After each round of events, three students were awarded first, second or third place ribbons. In addition, students who demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship were awarded gold coins throughout the day. At the end of the day, the team with the most sportsmanship coins won medals.



When asked what he liked about Field Day, sixth grader Noah Johnson responded, "I liked helping the little kids."

Second grader Clarke Avery enjoyed the opening event in which each team formed a line and each student "caterpillared" through the tunnel of legs. Kindergartener Frances Evans said her favorite part of the

day was when "Zoey's mom gave me a coin because I cheered the other kids."

Amanda Boschken, Field Day organizer, parent, and Los Altos Hills resident, coordinated teachers, parents, and staff for Field Day. In preparation, Ms. Boschken, Principal Erica Gilbert, and the Gardner teachers worked together with students on team-building exercises such as composing a team cheer, decorating individual flags and learning team members' names. Fifty-seven parent volunteers joined in to execute a well-run day of good natured competition. Students not only enjoyed themselves, but also responded with determination and perseverance coupled with a devotion to team and school.

Bullis Charter School Graduates First Class of Eighth Graders

On June 7, 2012, Bullis Charter School bid a fond farewell to the first eighth-grade class to complete its enriched middle school curriculum. Jim Kermode, whose daughter was a part of BCS' first eighth-grade class to be promoted, was one of the parents that presented the petition for Bullis Charter School to the Santa Clara County Office of Education in 2003. "We were convinced that enough effort and ingenuity could have a positive impact on public education. And, more importantly, we had enough faith in these new ideas to try them out on our own children. In less than eight years, BCS went from non-existent to one of the best schools in California. It's exciting to think about where we'll be with a bit more time and support." Jim's daughter, Gina, agrees. "With experience, the curriculum (got) better and better."

Therein lies the BCS approach — develop

successful teaching models by giving teachers the freedom to try innovative ways of increasing student achievement. According to Wanny Hersey, BCS Superintendent/Principal, "You support these educators, giving them needed resources, and they soar — and the kids soar."

"As an educator, it is fulfilling to watch a group of students develop from the time they start elementary school to the time they go to high school," said seventh-grade BCS teacher Lisa Stone, who has been with the school since it opened. "This class of graduates has excelled academically, socially, and emotionally, thanks to the comprehensive curriculum at BCS. They have built a solid foundation that will serve them well throughout their lives."

Students promoted from BCS' eighth grade in June are now attending local public high schools and several area private high schools. All of last year's BCS seventh-grade class continued on to eighth grade this year at BCS.



Gina Kermode and Rachael Waldman Kiselev, members of BCS' first eighth grade class, pose with their promotion certificates after the June 7, 2012 celebration at BCS.

CRANSTON AND COMPANY

William MacGregor ("Billy") Cranston was born in Napa County in 1879 to a Scottish immigrant family. His father, Robert, was a prominent builder in the Haight-Ashbury District of San Francisco, where the family moved. Lots in the area were cheap, allowing for construction of large multi-story mansions. Many of Robert's buildings can be seen today almost unaltered, at least from the outside.

William graduated in 1897 from San Francisco's Lowell High School. He went to Stanford University, studied law, and met Carol Dixon, daughter of a Sacramento physician. They both graduated in 1901 and were married in 1903 in Sacramento. By 1905 William had joined his father and brother in the construction business, now R.D. Cranston and Sons, with offices at 114 Montgomery Street.

After the great earthquake and fire of April, 1906, William and Carol moved to Palo Alto,

where William organized the University Realty Company. In 1910, he took in a partner, fellow Stanford graduate Norwood B. Smith. William dealt with big names in Palo Alto and the peninsula, among them Timothy Hopkins, nephew of Mark Hopkins, and Mrs. C.F. Rengstorff.

In 1914, William and Carol's last child, Alan MacGregor, was born. The same year they bought a 20-acre parcel of land in Los Altos Hills at what is now the corner of Fremont Road and Campo Vista Drive. The property included a big red barn and an old shingled farmhouse, which was called the Red Barn House.

Alan and his sister R.E. roamed the large property and rode horses, enjoying their childhoods in a rural setting close to one of the world's most famous cities. In 1922, William and Carol moved to what would be their permanent home, a large house at what is now Cypress Court off Cypress Drive in today's Los Altos Hills. William named the house (pictured below), situated on thirteen acres along Adobe

Creek, "Villa WAREC," WAREC being an anagram of the initials for William, Alan, R.E., and Carol. The house still stands. Just off Cypress Drive is a cul-de-sac called WAREC Way, a memento of the Cranston house's name.

In 1923, Norwood Smith bought out William Cranston's interest in the University Realty Company. Smith and Cranston continued to hold considerable real estate jointly, and University Realty Company was dominant in Palo Alto. It arranged the acquisition of Waverly and Hamilton streets for the downtown United States Post Office. During the depression William Cranston did business in Palo Alto as William Cranston and Company, a general real estate, property management, and insurance business.

University Realty Company filed dissolution papers



in 1943. Many of its buildings can be seen in Palo Alto today. The Decker Oak Building was remodeled in 1984, with a new façade on the University Avenue and Waverly elevations. The rear retains the original brick wall. The offices of University Realty at the northwest corner of University and Waverly are now a furniture outlet.



TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
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Town Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official town newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the town — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the town government. The newsletter is published quarterly. **Deadline for the next issue is October 1, 2012.**

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www.losaltoshills.ca.gov

Our Town

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Ginger Summit

CALENDAR

**Sept
8**

Sat., 3:00 - 8:00 pm

Hoedown

Westwind Community Barn

Dancing, arts and crafts, live music, dinner available for purchase.

For more information see page 6.

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Sun., 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

En Plein Air Art Nature and Equestrian Painting

This youth course is located at Westwind Community Barn and offered through the Parks and Recreation Department. To register or for more information visit www.losaltoshills.ca.gov under the Recreation tab.



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Sat., 8:30 am - 2:00 pm,

Foothill College

Silicon Valley Watershed Summit

Foothill College (Smithwick Theater), 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills

Details: www.acterra.org/watershedsummit

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Sun., Reception 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Go Figure, an Art Exhibit

Town Hall. Artwork by the late Mitchel Lewis Bricker and Nina Bricker.

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Sun., 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

En Plein Air Art Nature and Equestrian Painting

This adult course is located at Westwind Community Barn and offered through the Parks

and Recreation Department. To register or for more information visit www.losaltoshills.ca.gov under the Recreation tab.



**October
27**

Monster Bash

The Los Altos Hills Youth Commission is hosting a Teen Dance Party at American Legion Hall downtown Los Altos. For more information visit www.losaltoshills.ca.gov.

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Halloween Party

Los Altos Hills Families and Fremont Hills Country Club invite your family for an afternoon of games, activities and treats. To learn more visit www.lahfamily.com.



Calendar events are also posted on town's website: www.losaltoshills.ca.gov